



PATENT
3654-1007

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Jarle SVEAN et al.

Conf. 6026

Application No. 09/653,870

Group 2643

Filed September 1, 2000

Examiner M Ramakrishnaiah

EAR TERMINAL

RECEIVED

JUL 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 18, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 18, 2004, for which the period for response has been extended one month, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

COPY FOR DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT PURPOSES

duct 401..." (column 5, lines 50-52). From what is explained by RACCA, it is clear that RACCA is disclosing a plug/pin intended for a full blockage of the duct 401. It cannot be seen that RACCA discloses or hints at "a valve" when explaining the function of the plug/pin. Nor does RACCA disclose the function of "opening if the pressure difference between the meatus and the environment of the user exceeds a predetermined limit". Accordingly, claims 4-5 and 8-9 (dependent on claim 4) avoid the rejection under §103.

New claim 17 is believed to be allowable because the references do not disclose a meatus-directed microphone (M2) having a sound inlet (T1) that opens to a closed space of the meatus, an electronics unit (11) coupled to the meatus-directed microphone (M2) and to a power supply (12), where the electronics unit includes noise control means for canceling acoustic noise signals in the meatus by conversion of acoustic signals generated by at least one of the microphones (M1, M2) and using feedback to the sound generator.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$86.00 for the extra independent claim added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.